REFERENCE

Memoirs and Instructions of Dutch Governors, Commandeurs, &c.

MEMOIR

LEFT BY

RYCLOF VAN GOENS, JUN.

GOVERNOR OF CEYLON, 1675-1679,

PUBLIC LIBRARY

TO HIS SUCCESSOR,

LAURENS PYL,

LATE COMMANDEUR, JAFFANAPATNAM.

Translated by SOPHIA PIETERS,
Dutch Translator.

With an Introduction and Notes by the Government Archivist.

COLOMBO:
H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, CEYLON.

1910.

REFERENCE

INTRODUCTION.

THE following passage occurs in the Memoir left by Governor Cornelis Joan Simons in 1707 for his successor Hendrick Becker :—" The original of this (Agreement between Admiral Westerwolt and Raja Sinha in 1638), with the Instructions which followed, up to that of Mr. van Goens, junior, inclusive, which had been bound together into a bundle, had disappeared in an unaccountable manner between the years 1696 and 1701 from the custody of the officers of the Secretariat, whereby information relating to the administration of affairs up to about the year 1681 is left in no little uncertainty."* The original of the Treaty referred to had probably been carried away by Westerwolt and eventually deposited in the Archives at Batavia, but a copy of it is still preserved in the Archives here. The Instructions which are said to have disappeared are the following :—(1) From Joan Maatzuyker to Jacob van Kittensteyn, 1660; (2) From Ryclof van Goens to Jacob Hustaart, 1663; (3) From Joan Maatzuyker to Ryclof van Goens, 1664; (4) From Ryclof van Goens to Ryclof van Goens, junior, 1675; (5) From Ryclof van Goens, junior, to Laurens Pyl, 1679. It is the last of these of which a translation is here presented, made from a printed copy obtained from Holland by Mr. F. H. de Vos and kindly lent for the purpose.

I am glad to state that the bundle of lost originals (of Instructions) which were not available to Governor Simons in 1707 and to Valentyn, the historian, in 1723, has at last come to light. It was accidentally discovered among the Dutch records, having probably been there during all these years. That it should have so long remained undiscovered was evidently due to the fact that the contents of the bundle, which had since been bound, were wrongly described in the list of records. All the Instructions named above, with the autographic signatures of the Governors, have been carefully

* " 't Origineel hier van, met de verdre Successive Instructien, tot die van de Heer *van Goens*, de Jonge, inkluis, te samen in een Bondel gebonden, zyn tusschen Ao. 1696 en 1701, op een onverantwoordelyke wyze, van de Bedienden der Secretary verduisterd, waarom, en door 't missen van welke, de verdre behandeling van zaken, tot ontrent Ao. 1681 toe, met weinig zekerheid kan nagespeurd werden."—*Valentyn's Byzondere Zaken van Ceylon, p. 341.*

preserved. By this fortunate discovery I was enabled to compare the printed copy of the younger van Goens's Memoir with the manuscript original just before passing the translation to the Government Printer.

The portion of the Instructions which refer to the Madura coast, then a dependency of the Government of Ceylon, has been left untranslated, as having no relation to Ceylon at present.

The following brief biographical facts relating to the writer of the Memoir would perhaps add some interest to the document.

Ryclof van Goens, junior, son of Ryclof van Goens, the Governor-General of Netherlands India, who had himself been Governor of Ceylon, was born at Batavia on January 11, 1642, his mother being Jacobina Rosegaard. At the age of four years he was sent for his education to Holland, and returned ten years later with the rank of *Assistent* in the Company's service. After being attached for about a year to the Secretariat at Batavia he came to Ceylon on October 2, 1658. His father was then Superintendent and Admiral of the Sea and Land Forces of the Company on the coast of India, Coromandel, Surat, Ceylon, Bengal, and Malacca, and probably desired to have his son in his neighbourhood. From 1659 to 1660 he studied under the famous Baldeus at Jaffanapatnam, and, in the latter year, at the youthful age of 18, got his promotion as *Onder-Koopman.* He then filled in succession the posts of Member of the Judicial Council at Colombo and Dissave (with the rank of Koopman) of Galle, Mature, &c., the latter of which he held for six years, with great acceptance to the Supreme Government at Batavia. In January, 1669, he returned to Holland in command of four vessels. During his stay there the Chamber of XVII. appointed him a Councillor Extraordinary of Netherlands India. He returned to the East the following year in the "Brederode," and probably sat on the Council of India during the next five years, although there is no record of his employment during this interval, but on April 12, 1675, being appointed to succeed his father, he took over from the latter the Government of this Island. Of his rule in Ceylon, though only for the brief space of three years, the following Memoir left by him for his successor will give a fair idea.

It is an interesting circumstance that the escape of Robert Knox occurred just at the time Governor Ryclof van Goens, junior, was leaving Ceylon for Batavia. Knox, after giving an account of his arrival at Mannar and his journey thence to Colombo in the suite of the Governor-elect, Laurens Pyl, speaks thus of his reception by van Goens:—" The next

morning the Governor, whose name was Ricklof van Gons, son of Ricklof van Gons, General of Batavia, sent for us to his house, whom we found standing in a large and stately room paved with black and white stones, and only the Commander, who brought us from Mannar, standing by him: who was to succeed him in the Government of that place. On the further side of the room stood three of the Chief Captains, bareheaded. First, he bid us welcome out of our long captivity, and told us that we were free men, and that he should have been glad if he could have been an instrument to redeem us sooner, having endeavoured as much for us as for his own people. For all which we thanked him heartily, telling him we knew it to be true. The Governor perceiving I could speak the Portuguese tongue, began to inquire concerning the affairs of the King and Country very particularly, and oftentimes asked about such matters as he himself knew better than I. To all his questions my too much experience enabled me to give a satisfactory reply."

On December 3, 1679, Ryclof van Goens, junior, set sail from Ceylon. He was proceeding to Batavia to take up the post of Commissaris-Generaal of all the Indies, having been nominated to this office in the December preceding. He was the first to fill it. Of his subsequent career, after leaving Ceylon, a few brief notes will be sufficient. He resigned his post of Commissioner the following year and set out for Europe as Admiral of the return fleet, acting as Commissioner to the Cape of Good Hope on his passage. In 1684 he was appointed a full Councillor* of India, and, returning to Batavia, held the post of President of the College of Magistrates. It was his last office; for on his return to the Fatherland he expired on board ship, and was buried at sea, September 14, 1687. He was twice married, first to Louisa Brasser, by whom he had a family of four sons and six daughters, five of these children dying in infancy, of whom four lie buried in Colombo. His second wife was Catharina Adrichem, the daughter of his stepmother Esther de Solemne, by her first husband. The tombstone over the grave of Jacobina Rosegaard and Esther de Solemne, the two wives of van Goens the elder, may be seen at Wolvendaal Church.

R. G. ANTHONISZ,
Government Archivist.

Colombo, July, 1910.

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* *Raad Ordinaris.*

MEMOIR

For the Honourable LAURENS PYL, Chief Commandeur and Provisional Governor of Ceylon, Madura, Negapatam, and *Inchiado*, and the Council, for their guidance, so far as circumstances and the interests of the Honourable Company will permit, and pending further Instructions from His Excellency the Governor-General and the Council of India.

Introductory.—As the order of His Excellency the Governor-General and the Honourable Councillors of India expressly requires me to leave for your Honour's information, by means of a Memoir, a statement of the principal points in regard to the administration of this vast Government of Ceylon, it seems to me I could follow no better plan than adopt, as my guide, the Memoir handed to me and the Council here by His Excellency the Superintendent and Admiral Ryklof van Goens, at present Governor-General of India, on his departure on April 12, 1675. Which Memoir was greatly approved by the Authorities* in the Fatherland and recommended to be generally followed. Moreover, two years ago, by their letters of September 16, 1678, and September 21, 1679, the Supreme Government of India gave very full, wise, and strict orders concerning all the principal affairs of this Government, in accordance with which we are bound to act. The more so, because in our letters since sent to the Fatherland and to Batavia, it was already distinctly stated that the orders of His Honour had been so strictly carried out that no point of any importance had been left out. The last letter received, of September 21, thank God, expresses full approval and satisfaction with our work. There remains therefore nothing for us

* The Directors of the East India Company.

but to exercise constant care and to faithfully use the best methods available to lessen the expenses and to increase the profits of the Company. How far we have succeeded in this Your Honour will very well see, and the matter is stated at length in our last letter to the Fatherland of October last, sent by the ship "Juffr. Cornelia." Since God Almighty in His great mercy has now blessed our country and the Honourable Company with peace (for which, may He be eternally praised), it will be much easier for Your Honour to equalize the profits and losses and bring our undertakings to perfection than it has been for us, who, for a period of eight years had to struggle with wars both from within and without, and had no small trouble to keep the establishments of Ceylon at work.

We will, therefore, following the Memoir referred to, now proceed to speak more at length on the subject and to indicate the changes since that time.

Sources of Revenue.—For the maintenance of Ceylon and the Honourable Company, and with a view to make this splendid acquisition of ours a source of profit and enjoyment, the objects recommended were the following :—The collection of all areca-nut in Ceylon, the capture of elephants, according to the demands of trade, the promotion of agriculture, the due collection of the Company's tolls, revenues, and taxes, the monopoly by the Honourable Company of the trade in salt and cotton goods, as well as the appropriation of the profi from the chank and pearl fishery, and, above all, of the cinnamon, for which, from olden times, this Island appears to have been visited, occupied, and conquered by various people at the cost of much life and property. To these sources of income was also added the sale of all kinds of merchandise in the departments under the Company's administration in Ceylon.

Areca-nut.—That these are the principal resources for maintaining this great establishment, so that other parts of the Company's jurisdiction might profit thereby, is unquestionable. Mention was made of this in detail in the Memoir referred to, which must be carefully followed. For instance, the areca-nut must not be bought of or sold to any one oustside the Honourable Company, and great precautions must be taken against smuggling by small vessels, by enforcing the *Placaats* issued on this subject. This matter of the areca-nuts had been pending long and been a subject of much controversy, but firmness and persistence on our part have at length overcome all difficulties. This has been proved by the sale this year of

over 40,000 ammunams, which, as supplied to various places, we will specify here for Your Honour's information:—

		Ammunams.
Bengal	.. ..	5,200
Coromandel	.. ..	20,000
Negápatnam	.. ..	12,000
Maduro	.. ..	4,000
Mallebar, for Canare and Wingurta		500
Suratta	.. ..	3,000
Persia	.. ..	300
	Total ..	45,000

each ammunam being valued at 24,000 stivers, which, by a rough calculation, means a profit to the Honourable Company of about 200,000 guilders, $\frac{3}{4}$ standing out on credit and $\frac{1}{4}$ received in cash. The interest on the amount outstanding on credit may be reckoned at 50 per cent., and the sale of the areca-nut at the present current rate will realize $5\frac{1}{2}$ per cent. profit on each ammunam of 24,000 stivers. The areca-nut purchased for 200,000 guilders will bring a profit of 550,000 guilders, which is more than sufficient to pay right off the whole garrison of Ceylon of about 3,400 men. From which it appears how valuable this commodity is. I have stated all this to induce Your Honour to make every effort to gather the large quantity of areca-nut, which, owing to the many disturbances, wars, and other causes I was prevented from doing, although it is undoubtedly true that Ceylon could yield more than 48,000 to 60,000 ammunams of areca-nut a year. We hope this will prove true in the future, by God's blessing. This year 30,000 ammunams of areca-nut were received, and the sale effected bears out my foregoing statement.

Trade in Cotton Goods.—The purchase of the areca-nuts from the natives leads to a profit in the sale of cotton goods, for these are paid for in kind by them, viz., in areca-nuts. They do not readily pay in money, but, on the other hand, receive it for the provisions they bring to the market. All money therefore collected by the sale of cotton goods is received from the people living in and around the towns and forts who use the cloths. The imports must therefore be carefully watched and the *Placaat* be enforced to the letter. In Colombo the privilege of this trade has been granted to some of the leading Burghers. This practice will have to be continued, as their Honours in Batavia have approved of it. The issue of all cotton goods out of the Company's stores must be watched.

The seal of the warehouse is in the custody of the Secretary to the Government, who has been specially authorized to issue the said goods. The cloths must be priced and sold in Colombo by the Honourable Mr. van Vorsten, the Koopman Sterrevelt, as administrator, and his assistant, Carel Bolner, who together are responsible for the proper conduct of the sale. The goods sold must be entered in the books in such a manner as to enable the prices to be fixed according to the demand. The monthly salaries of the married employés are drawn from the Burghers out of the fund of the sale of cotton goods. This keeps the prices of the goods steady, and saves a lot of bungling. In order to follow the same practice in other places under this Government, the orders of the authorities in Batavia must be followed, and the work arranged to suit the places and the people. The best goods, those most in demand, the cheapest, and those bringing the greatest profit are the cotton goods from Madure and some from Negapatnam, and the negro cloths* from Bimilipatam. Your Honour had better not send to other places for these, unless in case of need, but try to get the best sortings from these places. By so doing not only could we keep the monopoly to ourselves, but a large sum will also be received for Batavia and the Fatherland for all kinds of cotton goods of Madure and Negapatnam. The Government has nearly disposed of a large quantity of the goods from Tegenepatnam and Coromandel, which had been lying idle on our hands for a long time, and which had to be sold at small profit; so that after this the profit on cotton goods will be considerably higher.

Trade in Elephants.—The sale of elephants is a source of clear profit, as they can be captured in any place in Ceylon, and the lack is not of elephants but of purchasers. The wars on the coasts of India and the robberies of the French have injured this trade for some years, but it seems that the demand is increasing. The largest sale takes place, as Your Honour knows, in Jaffanapatnam, and next to that in Galle. The animals from Batticaloa and Trincoenemale were therefore ordered to be sent to Jaffanapatnam, and those from Colombo to Galle. With the consent of the authorities† in Batavia the prices were greatly reduced, to attract purchasers. The sale is held publicly by the Council. Forty-one elephants have been sold in Negapatnam during the last three years. It is to be hoped that this sale there will increase, or, better still, that the merchants will come to Jaffanapatnam. Efforts should be made to bring this about. In former times a profit

* Cloths used by natives.

† The Supreme Government of India.

of from 150,000 to 200,000 guilders per year was made on the elephants sold in Jaffanapatnam and Galle. This would go a great way to meet the expenses of the Government, and we earnestly hope that Your Honour will find it continue to do so in the future. In Jaffanapatnam these animals were paid for in promissory notes or cash, but in Galle, by the Bengal Moors, only in rice; and, since Ceylon now produces this grain, care must be taken not to accept rice in exchange at a higher price than 14 or 16 rix-dollars a last, because it will not be paid for in Batavia at a higher rate than the price at Bengal, or at the most that at Negapatnam, and if it be disposed of in Ceylon at a higher rate, the profit on the elephants will be greater, but it will be found that the expenditure will also be higher. I hope Your Honour will bear this in mind, and pay due regard to the last received order from the authorities at Batavia.

Agriculture: Rice Cultivation.—The great importance of agriculture will be admitted by any one who has the welfare of the Government at heart, because its successful promotion relieves the mind of the ruler of the Island of all anxiety as to the supply of rice, and also saves a considerable amount of money which would otherwise be withdrawn from the Island. That great exertions have been made by us to maintain this industry will be abundantly proved; for not only is the produce now sufficient for the needs of the Government, but we can, even at a reasonable price, sell some of the rice at Madure and Negapatnam. Jaffanapatnam, Manaar, and Calpentyn are, through Your Honour's* wise care, plentifully supplied with grain, and if the Lord God favour us with a fair crop, the whole harvest will prove sufficient for the needs of the Honourable Company. Rice cultivation has been brought to such a prosperous state in the Galle district by Commandeur van der Molen, that it is only the needs of the town of Galle that have to be supplied. This is done so efficiently by the Bengal Moors that from 200 to 300 lasts are usually in excess. In Batticaloa, Trincoenemale, and Cotjaar† agriculture is so far advanced that not only is a sufficient supply yielded for the garrison, but with fair harvest and peaceful times there will be an excess of about 1,000 lasts of paddy per year over that required, which can be sold at about 1½ stiver the parra, a price which must not be raised unless quite necessary. For the consumption of Colombo supplies may be drawn from the stock in Batticaloa and Trincoenemale. Owing to the great decrease in the number

* When he was Commandeur of Jaffanapatnam.

† Kottiar.

of Europeans and slaves, and also through the *accommodessens* granted to all Sinhalese headmen and Lascoreens and the abolition of native rice rations, the consumption has been greatly reduced. From the Provinces belonging to the Colombo slaves as much paddy as the outstations required was partly received as tax, and partly bought. The consumption in Negombo is still rather excessive, owing to the Chalias, who must be supplied with rice during the time the cinnamon is gathered, that is, during the four or five months of the great and the two months of the small harvest. Fifty or sixty lasts of rice a year are required for this purpose. According to our calculation 600 lasts a year will be sufficient for the supply of Colombo, in addition to the paddy produced there. This could be provided by Batticaloa, or, if necessary, two hundred lasts could be procured from Madure, Negapatnam, or Galle. I have endeavoured here to point out to Your Honour the great importance of agriculture and the attention which this matter and that of areca-nuts demand. May the Almighty bless Your Honour's further work in these directions.

Taxes.—The tolls, leases, and land revenues demand serious attention, and no little tact in their management, considering the strange character of the people we have to deal with. How far the work in Jaffanapatnam and Manaar has advanced through Your Honour's care will be proved at the closing of the trade accounts. The general receipts in those districts amounted to *fl.* 174,468.12.6.* Out of this, and the profits from the sale of elephants, and the trade in areca-nuts in Calpentyn, not only could the garrison be paid, but also a great part of the heavy expenses at Colombo met. I need not dilate further on these matters, as they are within Your Honour's own knowledge.

In Batticaloa, Trincoenemale, and Cotjaar no other taxes of importance were levied except those on the crops and the capture of elephants. To pay the poll and other taxes the inhabitants furnish yearly as many beams and light timber as is required from them. They also sell a certain quantity of wax and honey at a low price. It is not advisable to tax the natives of this Province very heavily, on account of their capricious character and the small power which the army has in that district. The income last year was *fl.* 1,513. In the Galle district the duties, farms, and land rents are well regulated and have been long a source of revenue. The receipts last year amounted to *fl.* 50,573.15. It will not be easy to increase

* The three denominations referred to here are guilders, fanams, and stivers.

this to any sensible extent, but the principal point is that the Honourable Company must not be made to suffer loss. Commandeur van der Molen has paid particular attention to this matter, and he will continue to do so. In the Colombo district the inhabitants have until this year been free from taxes, except those on the crops and the obligation to perform State labour. This year all the Provinces, except the Three Corles have been ordered to pay their old dues,* which they have done. But being the first time this was collected it did not amount to more than *fl.* 1,822.10 in money, exclusive of the paddy. Next year, after April, a few of the Netherlanders best qualified for this duty, assisted by the Sinhalese headmen, ought to try to enforce a better payment, but not with too much severity, as the people here are much bolder and more seditiously disposed than those in Jaffanapatnam. It is chiefly with the help of the Lascoreens from Colombo and Galle that the Honourable Company is able to defend the country against the people of the hill-country. They form with their headmen an army of 5,000 stout men. As a reward for their services they have the best and largest villages, and nearly all of them the produce of their estates free. For this reason the Honourable Company is not required to give them any wages, except when they are sent outside their Corles. This is a great saving to the Company, because if these people had to be paid with money and rice, with their great number of women and children, no less than 50,000 ammunams a year would be required. If Your Honour would continue to provide the Lascoreens with rice in this manner, the country will remain quiet, while otherwise there would be a cost of 2,000 or 3,000 guilders to the Honourable Company. They will pay their old dues without much trouble.

The tax of the *Marales*†, which is the appropriation by the Company of ⅓rd of all the property of a deceased person, is the point that presents the greatest difficulty. The Christians were exempted from this duty by the Portuguese, and they were required to pay instead for various other things which the priests and churches required. This year the *Marale* has been demanded from every one without exception, with a view to show that the exemption of taxes in favour of the Christians depended upon the will of the Company and not upon the Portuguese law, and with a view also to endeavour in this way to have the tax-collectors paid without expense to the Company. In the event of this plan not succeeding,

* Probably old dues under former rule.

† According to Valentyn a special exception was made in favour of the Christians in the district of Matara.

the *Marales* will have to be abolished as regards the Christians, as is done in Galle and Matura. The general revenue of Colombo from this source (taxes generally) during last year was *fl.* 43,945.5.7. Next year the leases will decrease in value, because the community is poor and has no money; moreover everything is so cheap and the garrisons so much reduced that the one will counterbalance the other.

Salt Monopoly.—Salt, which in all countries is considered the property of the lord of the land, must not be imported or exported in Ceylon by anybody but the Honourable Company. This law has been enforced in Colombo, Galle, and Mature, but in Calpentyn, Manaar, Jaffanapatnam, Trincoenemale, and Batticaloa it did not succeed, because salt is very abundant in those places. This is a matter which cannot be introduced in a general way until the death of Raja Sinha and the complete acquisition by us of the lowlands. Meanwhile the people from Mature and Galle must not be allowed to get salt by boats, not even the Chalias; as this would open the way for smuggling. By attention to this Your Honour will find that salt gives a fair profit along the sea-board from Colombo to Galle, and it is to be had in abundance at Mature and even at Manaar.

Chank and Pearl Fishery.—The chanks form the surest source of income in Madure, excepting the trade in cloths, which has been so well promoted during Your Honour's residence there, that the Company will derive from this a profit of at least 60,000 or 70,000 guilders a year. But before permission for diving is given, the pearl beds must be carefully examined. The necessity for this need not be further explained, as Your Honour is well acquainted with this subject. This year the beds in the Madure coast were inspected, and it was found that at least two more years must elapse before the pearl fishery can commence. We will therefore not say anything more on these well-threshed subjects, except that no small vessels must be admitted into the bay between Manapaar and Rammancoil.

Cinnamon is said to be the bride, round whom they all dance in Ceylon, and that which must bear the burden of the administration. Yet our authorities consider it desirable to deliver it free and untaxed, and to find the heavy expenses of the garrison out of the sources of income above mentioned. How far we have succeeded in this object has been stated at length in our letter of last October to the Fatherland. With the Lord's help the balance on the closing of the books at the end of three months will prove that this is possible. We hope Your Honour will strive to maintain this course,

and that you will also see that next year again 8,400 bundles of cinnamon are peeled, namely, 2,400 in January and 6,000 between June and November, also providing for the local demand, which has risen to 800 or 1,000 bundles. The orders for Soeratta and Persià, making together 550 bundles, have been sent on with those for China and Coeverden, so that only Coromandel remains to be supplied; and for this there is time till May or June. It is to be seen whether Bengal will want any of this spice. Four thousand bundles have been sent to Batavia in accordance with their Honours' orders. A like quantity is to be sent by the ships "Tertholen" and "Sumatra" from Galle. It is packed in jute bales and ready for export, but whether Mallabaar will be able to supply as many hides as are required for the packing Your Honour will have to inquire. The cinnamon ought to be sewed up both in jute and in hide, but if the hides are not forthcoming it will have to be sent in jute sacks only. Cinnamon has been peeled in large quantities for some years, especially in the districts of Colombo and Negombo, and for the last two years in the Corles between Marabile* and Cajamel, which neither the King's people nor the Chalias tried to prevent. The next great crop, which would be in June, must be held in that district again, but care must be taken not to let the King's people be put to any inconvenience. The Superintendent of the Cinnamon Department, Rombout van der Parra, being also Lieutenant Dessave of Caliture, is well acquainted with this work. He only needs to be told how much cinnamon is required, and he will take care that a correct estimate is made and also look to the harvest, assisted by able Dessaves. The necessity for the kind treatment of the Chalias, who are a bold class of men, cannot be unknown to Your Honour. It has been fully discussed in the former letters and memoirs.

Coinage.—The subject of copper coin, from which the Honourable Company derived much profit during the hard times of war and scarcity of money, will be now considered. Your Honour will find full mention of the subject in the letters from and to Batavia. Their Honours wished to know the total value of the copper coin now current in Ceylon, information which it is hardly possible to give. The question of a fresh coining is being considered, but this cannot be done without great loss, as the current value of the coin in circulation is nearly twice as high as the value of the copper. On this point I will give the necessary information to the authorities in Batavia. More money should not be coined until

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* Marawila.

Your Honour is in a position to see things clearly. The copper coin in the Company's treasury in Ceylon amounts to the sum of 200,300 guilders. Coin of other metal is hardly in use. This tends to unduly raise the value of silver and gold coin. It would be well, therefore, if Your Honour would see that no rupees, abacys, pagodas, coebangs, ducats, reals, and other coin of a similar kind are given to the cashiers, but only copper coin of value must be reserved for purposes of commerce, and the excess sent to Coromandel and Bengal. Gold and silver coin must be treated only as articles of commerce, except on the coast of Coromandel, Madure, and Negapatnam, where 25, 30, or more per cent. profit can be made on rupees, abacys, and pagodas. In connection with this matter of the coin I may mention that instructions have been given not to draw any money from outside except for commercial purposes. That we have striven to do so and have succeeded is proved by the fact that in addition to the cotton goods, areca-nuts, chanks, and cinnamon, which have been sent to India, and the sale of which yielded a considerable profit, a sum of 50,000 guilders more than we received from outside has been sent by this Government in cash to Coromandel. Your Honour ought to be able to furnish a further 200,000 guilders from Negapatnam, for which the order has already been received, and 50,000 guilders could also be sent in rupees and abacys by the ships which are to come from Bengal and are to return with areca-nuts and chanks. This proves that Ceylon, instead of receiving, sent out in one year in cash 300,000 guilders.

Jaffanapatnam has not only sufficient coin for its own use, but also can supply Batticaloa, Trincoenemale, and; to a large extent, Colombo with the necessary money. Galle needs but little, and if the Bengal Moors as well as the inhabitants of Galle buy a considerable quantity of areca-nuts, as they have been doing nearly every year, that district also would be able by the sale of cotton goods, and by leases and other revenues, to provide for itself. Colombo will not want more than 100,000 guilders a year, and perhaps this could be obtained from Negapatnam out of the sale of areca-nuts, if that trade continues to be as profitable as it is now. In Madure it is anticipated that the cotton goods will sell half on credit and half for cash, and the sale of areca-nuts will yield a considerable sum as profit. The capital wanted for the purchase of cotton goods must be regulated by the influx of this article and the number of orders for Batavia and the Fatherland. It is beyond doubt that the establishments of Ceylon can be maintained with the profits derived from its own products. The importance of this fact is clear. We hope Your Honour will continually work towards this end, and keep no money idle, but send on

all rupees coming from Soeratta to Bengal as soon as possible, according to the orders of their Honours in Batavia. The ducats brought from Mocha must be sent to Coromandel by the first opportunity. They will amount to *fl.* 161,245.16. At the transfer of the Government it was discovered that besides the ducats just mentioned there were in hand various coins amounting to 675,000 guilders. From this must be deducted, as mentioned before, 250,000 guilders for Coromandel and Bengal. These brief references to the monetary system prove clearly that nothing has been neglected.

*Mesnagie.**—Their Honours in Batavia have approved of the measures adopted to regulate mesnagie. and we would recommend Your Honour to follow them. Applications must be well considered, and no money paid without investigation being made by Your Honour, and no goods are to be accepted which are liable to be damaged. The giving of credit must be regulated according to the orders of the Honourable Company until their High Mightinesses agree to pay all monthly salaries in Ceylon (provided this could be done with profit), as their Honours in Batavia have requested.

The Fortifications are nearly ready; their completion and repair will not amount to much yearly. Out of the 1,000 slaves intended for Batavia, 275 of the most efficient have gone. About 125 old men and women have been set at liberty on their paying a ransom. There are yet to be sent stout young men and 200 youths and young women. The rest, mostly old and poor people, should not be sent, as the orders from Batavia have forbidden this; but these may be used for labour in Ceylon. The question of house-rent will be found referred to in the books of the year 1680. The *accommodessan* granted to the natives and the abolition of the rations to them has been referred to already. The diminution in strength of the army and the regulations regarding its command have been attended to. The muster-rolls will show Your Honour the number of men and the services to which they were put, as also the specification of the different vessels belonging to this Government. It is left to Your Honour to employ these vessels to the best advantage of the Honourable Company, but their crew is not to be increased. The slaves of the Company have been trained to all kinds of trades, and the services of the Netherlanders have thus been dispensed with, by which a reduction in expense has been effected. This course ought to be continued, and the expenditure,

* The etymology of this word seems obscure. It is probably the French *menage*. The system referred to is evidently that of making remittances to and from Holland and Batavia.

salaries, &c., so regulated that the books may be made to properly balance. There was shown at the balancing of the accounts last October an expenditure of *fl.* 1,165,460.12.9, against receipts of *fl.* 914,331.11.4, making a deficit of *fl.* 351,129.1.5. If the expenses could be brought down this year by 100 guilders, and the profits increased by 200 guilders, which I think would be quite possible, Your Honour would be able by next October (by God's blessing) to place the affairs of Ceylon on a settled basis. No less than 680 pounds of cinnamon, besides many other goods, were exported. May God Almighty bless you, and enable you to bring yet greater honour and profit to the Honourable Company.

Civil Administration.—It would take me too long to enter fully into the subject of the Burghers, the Army, the Church, Schools, Orphanages, Education, Marriage, Christianity, Navigation, and such like important matters; and, as these have been discussed at length in the Memoir left to me by my predecessor, I would by so doing be merely repeating what Your Honour will find in that document and in the letters sent from Batavia two years ago. Your Honour will there find all that is needed to guide you in forwarding the welfare of Ceylon. Marriage with native women is forbidden in Ceylon, because there is a sufficient number of women descended from European fathers. This prohibition must be maintained. Boys who are of fit age to become soldiers are taken into the Company's service on salaries of from 9 to 10 guilders per month. They are also to be taught various trades. This practice has been already introduced and highly approved of in Batavia. The Burghers are prohibited from taking any share in navigation, but this does not mean that they are not to be allowed to transport the produce of their lands, such as timber, sugar, cattle, earthenware, tresellen, coconuts, arrack, &c., in small vessels from one place to another. They are allowed to trade with the natives of Galle, Negapatnam, Jaffanapatnam, &c., provided the vessels are manned entirely by natives. No licence must be given for the transport of any goods or merchandise of which the Honourable Company holds the monopoly, either to places within or without this Government, and great discrimination must be exercised in the issue of passes, according to the strict orders from Batavia. I will give their Honours the necessary information regarding this point of the liberty to be allowed to the Burghers to transport the produce of their lands. Meanwhile Your Honour might leave the poor Burghers this small privilege, so that their cultivated gardens and agriculture may not suffer through an obstacle to the sale of the produce.

For more than twelve years, up to a few months ago, the paddy from all farms in the districts of Colombo and Galle was bought by the Honourable Company, by special agreement, for from 14 to 15 stivers the parra. This promoted the cultivation of rice to a large extent, and as it had now so far advanced, I reduced the price to 10 stivers. For less than this the farmers cannot afford to give it, on account of the many losses they suffer in cattle and crops through floods. Your Honour would do well to continue to pay that price, and help the inhabitants to the best of your power in the matter of agriculture.

The administration of the Government of the country is that which presents the greatest difficulty and is of the greatest moment in Ceylon. The Governor of Ceylon, assisted by four Commandeurs* and a number of Dessaves, has to administer justice to about 500,000 subjects. No authority is to be allowed to any but these persons of quality. The Dessaves are directly under the orders of their Commandeur, those of Colombo under that of the Governor. The duty of the Commandeur of Colombo† is to preside over the meetings of the Council, to carry out the chief administration, and to rule in case of absence of the Governor like the other Commandeurs, but only until the return of the Governor, who has the direction of the police, army, and the government under his special care. He acts with the advice of the Council.

The Dessaves have authority over all officers of the army in the field and also over the Lieutenant-Dessave. But the army in the towns is under the command of the Governor of Colombo.‡ The advanced guards now have strong forts, built of earth or stone, in the Provinces of Jaffanapatnam, the Wanny, Trincoenemale, Batticaloa, Cotjaar, and Galle, as well as Colombo. The post highest in elevation belonging to Colombo is the fort and excellent stone redoubt at Sitawaka, ten hours'§ journey from Colombo. It has two Lascoreen picket stations at Ruanelle|| and Currewitte¶. Four hours' journey down the river is the fort of Hangwelle, and two hours further down on the other side of the river, in the Hina Corla, is Malwane. Sitawaka is garrisoned by a company of soldiers consisting of 130 men, Hangwelle and Malwane each by half a company. In Sitawaka are also 20 men, called

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* Reduced to three in later times.

† This office was afterwards abolished, the duties specified being relegated to the Hoofd Administrateur.

‡ Those in *Jaffna and Galle* under the Commandeurs of those Provinces.

§ An hour's journey was equal to $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles.

|| Ruanwella.

¶ Kuruwita.

"Voorgangers" (pioneers),* whose duty it is to go with the Lascoreens through the frontiers and to keep the roads clear. When the army goes out to attack an enemy they serve as guides. They are the bravest and most daring of the men, and therefore receive higher wages. This corps is to be kept on the same strength as at present.

Three or four guarded passes lead to Colombo, manned by 40 soldiers. Twenty of these accompany the Dessave on his circuits, provided nothing important is to be done. The fortress of Negombo is garrisoned by a company of 150 men, at the head of whom is the Lieutenant-Dessave Adam Slegt, under the authority of the Honourable Dessave van der Poel. They have also to guard a post four hours' journey from Negombo in Dunaga.† Their principal duty is to protect the Chalias during the gathering of the cinnamon. Caltura is also under the command of the Lieutenant-Dessave, who is also Superintendent of the Cinnamon and Chief of the company of 130 men, under the direction of the Dessave. A guard, consisting of 24 Netherlanders out of this company, is stationed at Anguretotte,‡ four hours' journey higher up from Caliture, on the bank of the large river of Saffragam§ in the Reyigam Corle.|| In the district outside the town of Colombo are employed four complete companies of soldiers, numbering with their officers over 600 men. In the fort and town of Colombo are also four companies, one of which, the Governor's bodyguard, consists of 150 men. These four companies may also be calculated at 600 men. The two companies in Sitawaka, Goerbewile,¶ and Malwane are relieved every four months by those from Colombo. The companies in Colombo have to be always ready for all emergencies and expeditions. The militia** is well trained and is commanded by valiant officers.

The Provinces at present within the jurisdiction of the Dessave of Colombo are the Happitigam, Alicoer,†† Hina, Hewagam, Salpitte, Reyigam, Pasdum, Walalewitte, Cucule, Currewitte,‡‡ Panavaal, Attulegam, and Hegampele Corles. The Naudun and Belligal Corles, with the Agras, are left in the hands of the King's people, for the sake of peace. Under the jurisdiction of the Dessave of Matura§§ are the Attacalam, Billigam, Galle, and half of the Walewitte Corles, as also the lands of the Girrewys and Roeme|||| as far as the

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* Sappers and miners. † Dunagaha Pattuwa.

‡ Anguruwatota in the Munwattebage Pattuwa of the Rayigam Korale. § Kaluganga. || Rayigam Korale.

¶ The present name of this village is *Guruwala*.

** Burgery. †† Alutkuru. ‡‡ Kuruwita.

§§ Under the higher authority of the Commandeur of Galle.

|||| Runa.

river Coebecanoye.* The highest field-fort in the Mature territory is that of Catoene, which is well built of tayp (*Port.* mud-wall). The Attacalan and Colona Corles and the land of Roene are placed under the charge of the Dessave Punchi Appuhami,† also called the Mende Corle Dessave. He and the able Tinnecon Dessave could be of great service to us when Rajia Singa dies.‡ As long as this king is alive there is no prospect of the extending of our dominion. It is best therefore to preserve and protect what we now possess in peace. When Rajia Singa dies Your Honour will find yourself overwhelmed with work, and a great deal of confusion will probably arise. The militia will have to be brought into the field to guard the passage for the low-country people in their flight, and to protect the Company's interests. In the letter of September 16, 1678, Your Honour will find expressed the anticipations entertained by their Honours at Batavia, and the orders given by them. When the anticipated event (Rajia Singa's death) occurs they must be notified of it at once. Irrespective of their Honours' order, I would however advise you to go with our militia and the best of the Lascoreens, in two divisions, as far as Arandore§ in the Billigal and Alauw in the Cattugampele Corle, situated four hours' journey from each other, the one in the Four Corles and the other in the Seven Corles. They would be able to protect the lowlands, the Chiefs and Lascoreens of which would at Rajia Singa's death separate themselves from the up-country folk and carry on a bitter conflict with each other. If this happened during the northern season (north-east monsoon), we would be able to attack Chilaw with a fishing boat and two chialoupen (sloops). The militia could enter into the country while the small vessels protected them. They could quite safely go up the river with two or three light pieces of ordnance. The Honourable Dessave van der Poel, the Captains, Lieutenant-Dessaves, and most of the military officers could with their experience be of great service to Your Honour and point out the best tracks—better than even the natives themselves. However, as long as Rajia Singa is alive, it would be well to often send His Majesty presents, such as hawks, horses, and curiosities from Soeratta, Persia, and other places, with which he would be more pleased than if we evacuated ten Provinces. It is evident that all negotiations with him are likely to be

* Kubakan-oya.

† He is said to have been the ancestor of the Tillekeratne family, of Matara.

‡ Raja Sinha was at this time much advanced in years and in bad health. His death took place in 1685, six years subsequent to the date of this Memoir.

§ Arandara.

fruitless, unless we are prepared to give up to him' Colombo and Negombo. This having been declared out of the question by the Supreme Government of India, I do not see that we can look forward to any peace with him. Even if it were so, we could place no reliance on him, as their Honours themselves have been assured.

With regard to the Command of Jaffanapatnam, all possible redress has been given by Your Honour and the Council there in the affairs of the Wannias, and such points as you have left for your successor, the Honourable Mr. de Heyde, should, I think be acted upon in accordance with the resolutions passed, as the instructions are clear, and they ought to be followed pending further orders from Batavia.

It is very desirable that 100 or 120 male and female slaves should be deported from Colombo to Jaffanapatnam, to relieve the Government bondsmen and women from their labour at the fortifications. The people of the country would be much pleased at this, and it may be a means of exacting with more facility the increased taxes. The authorities in Batavia would no doubt approve of this, and it would make no difference to them whether this small number of slaves earn their living in Colombo or in Jaffanapatnam, the latter being likely to be more lucrative to them. According to my calculation their maintenance will not cost much more than 400 rix-dollars a year.

***MEMOIR** for the Opperkoopman the Honourable Ruthgaart de Heyde and the other Members of the Council, for their temporary Guidance.*

UNDER instructions from the Honourable the Directors of the Company their Honours in Batavia have desired me to provisionally take over the Island of Ceylon with all its dependencies from the Honourable Ryklof van Goens, junior, Extraordinary Councillor of India, Governor and High Commissioner-elect.* His Excellency considers it necessary that I should first go to Colombo to take over charge,† which I propose to do. Their Excellencies in Batavia have ordered that at my departure the care and government of this district should be provisionally

* He was appointed *Commissaris-General* of all India by the Chamber of XVII. in December, 1678, and left Ceylon a year later (*viz.*, December 3, 1679).

† It was during this journey from Jaffna to Colombo that Robert Knox, who had just escaped from the Kandyan dominions, accompanied Lawrens Pyl from Manaar to Colombo, and afterwards set sail for Batavia with the departing Governor Rycklof van Goens, junior.

transferred to the Honourable Mr. de Heyde, and His Excellency the Governor has directed me to furnish Your Honour and the Council of Jaffnapatnam with a short Memoir. This is a task that can be more easily accomplished on this occasion than on any previous one; because Your Honour has full knowledge of the character of the people, the methods to be employed to rule them, the payments due by them, and the duties they are to perform, which will be a great advantage to the Honourable Company. Although Your Honour has all the experience required, yet, as I must conform to the order delivered to me, I will briefly sketch the necessary lines on which Your Honour may act pending further instructions.

It is within Your Honour's knowledge with how much trouble and danger the poll tax and land rent were introduced and exacted, measures which the chiefs and the wealthiest inhabitants tried to prevent. They endeavoured to rob the Honourable Company of the rights and revenues for which it had worked so hard; yea, all the mayorals and most of the inhabitants of the Provinces Timmoraatche, Waddemoraatche, and Patchalapally fled to the Wanny to obtain assistance from the Kandyan King, and to try thereby to shake off the yoke and the rule of the Company, all which matters will be found stated in the correspondence. But these base and insolent pretensions were brought to naught by the mercy of the Lord, and these Provinces have been restored to peace. The Honourable Company has now for some years received the poll tax and land rent, for which may the Almighty be praised, and to Him we pray to further bless the righteous trade of the Company.

Matters having now been brought to a successful issue, and the Company having enjoyed the profits resulting from the measures adopted, it is the duty of Your Honour and the Council to take care that these measures will be continued to be carried out, and that the money is duly collected. In some places the payment is rather slow, as, for instance, in Patchalapally, but as Your Honour is aware, we have appointed a new Receiver there, who is engaged in trying to bring about a reform, and to collect the taxes for this year in as expeditious a manner as possible. The receipts will be less than before, but not very much; and for the reasons discovered by the Committee, the general receipts will remain unaffected. We have pointed out to Your Honour what cunning was used by the chiefs to again pay their dues in elephants instead of money, as they did formerly. This contumacy prevails mostly among the rich and most prominent of the inhabitants, and not among the poor. There are villages where the dues will have to be reduced, both in

regard to the tithes as well as the taxes on the fruit-bearing trees, while on the other hand, the most productive lands could be more heavily taxed, as I will propose to His Excellency the Governor after my arrival at Colombo. This must necessarily be done to relieve the poor, not merely because they are poor, but as a matter of right. The rich usually possess the best lands. Your Honour will find that soil of the first quality in the poorer villages is only about as good as soil of second or third quality in the richer ones, and it would be unjust to demand from a land that only yields ten-fold the same rate of taxes as from one that yields fifty-fold. They must therefore be fixed according to the quality of the soil. The wealthier people will no doubt oppose this very strongly, especially some of whom I have made particular mention to you, personally. The actions of these people must be watched. There are also some villages where the soil consists only of sand, and the trees here bear only very few fruits. In dealing with these cases discretion will have to be used.

The Special Commissioners report the completion of the land survey and the enumeration of the trees in Waddemoraatche. Their report must now be compared with the *Thombos* of the *Mayoraals*, and if these have anything to submit in the matter they ought to be heard as far as reasonable. The same course should be followed with regard to Patchalapally, when the work there is completed. The description of lands is still recorded only in olas, because they must be first inspected and measured. After the comparison and verification the entries must be made in books, called Thombos, in the same manner as the Thombos of the poll tax. These Thombos must be kept in a cabinet in the Council Hall, the contents of which are in the custody of the *Onderkoopman* Mierop, senior. In that cabinet are also kept the olas relating to the land rent, in drawers specially set apart for each parish, and the Mallabaar records or protocols containing the annual reports furnished relating to each parish. At the end of the year Your Honour should see that each overseer of a parish furnishes a return of the year's work, and that each such return is put away with others of the same parish in the cabinet. This has to be done because many frauds were committed with olas in former years. The overseers who keep pat-olas* with them, whenever they wished to commit a fraud, altered the olas to suit their purpose. This is now to a great extent prevented. If now, on comparison with the olas, the pat-olas are found to have been altered at the end of the year, the overseer is liable to be sent in chains out of the country.

* A schedule.

Besides the Thombos mentioned above, written in paper and ola, there will also be delivered to Your Honour a brief Thombo of the amount of the land rents, tithes, poll taxes, and State labour, which will show Your Honour how much each village has to pay, and how many of the inhabitants and which of them have to attend daily to perform State labour. A warrant signed by Your Honour, or by whomever you may authorize thereto, is to be issued to the people after the completion of their task, because the *kanakkapillais* do not treat them fairly.

In this Thombo Your Honour will also find a list of such old, crippled, and infirm people as are exempted from State labour* and poll tax, and also some others who are free from State labour. It also shows how many inhabitants of each sex there are in every village, and gives further information which Your Honour may require.

State labour consists in every man who is not mentioned in the small Thombo referred to above as exempted, being required to serve one day in each month, either here at the Castle or wherever else he may be required to do so. The people of Patchalapally, however, on account of the distance, serve at the Passes, by cutting trees, fetching water for the garrison, &c. Whoever fails to appear for the performance of this monthly duty has to work three days for every day of default, or otherwise to pay one *fanam* for each day, as preferred. But after the lapse of a fixed period they have no longer this option, but have to pay the fine. These fines have amounted already to *fl.*28,501.10. A sum of *fl.*5,119.5 is due for last year, while the list of the defaulters for this year has yet to be made up. The total number of people who have to perform State labour is 725, namely, 346 from the Province of Welligama, 139 from Timmoraatche, 99 from Waddemoraatche, 82 from the Islands, and 59 from Patchalapally. But I think that, if we had 200 or 250 good slaves, more work could be got than from these lazy people. This is no wonder, as they are not paid for their labour. They always complain that their slaves also have to perform the same State labour. They are right in this, because it was not the custom formerly. The duties they have to perform for the Honourable Company are very hard. They are obliged to fetch all the food for the elephants of the Company, to cut the wood, to carry all clergymen and other persons of quality and their luggage, to transport all timber, to bring oil and money to the Fort, and whatever else may be required of them, without any payment. The slaves were put to State labour, because the fortifications had to be restored; but I think that after another three years' work at these they might be relieved of this duty and the work completed with the aid of ordinary coolies. With this promise I have always

satisfied them when they began to grumble. I have thought it necessary to mention this here.

I will not state here how far the work at the fortifications has progressed, but I will explain this to His Excellency the Governor with the aid of a map. Your Honour will no doubt push this work on as quickly as possible. The stones obtained by breaking down one of the *guardyans** and the front row of houses would be very useful for this purpose, but about this I must first see His Excellency the Governor, and I will then let you know whether he approves of it.

The palm-timber and laths are mostly supplied by the inhabitants of Timmoraatche and Patchalapally, because in these places are found the greatest number and the oldest trees. Every man has to bring monthly to the sea coast the wood of one tree cut up into four, for which a payment is made to him. This was formerly appropriated by the Receivers. As the cutting up and bringing to the shore of a whole tree was considered too hard for some of the old people, they have been allowed to bring only two laths. The supervision of this work is entrusted to the Lieutenant-Dessave Mr. Hanekop. Most of the orders for laths have been executed, except those for the coast, where Your Honour has to send by the vessels of the Company as much timber as will be required at the end of the northern monsoon. The order has been given to Mr. Hanekop for the cutting of a quantity of timber for Colombo, each tree into three. A sufficient number of laths is in stock, which must be sent to Manaar by the first opportunity, and from there to Colombo.

It will be necessary to have the stalls for the elephants in all the Provinces carefully repaired before the rainy season commences, and good care must be taken of the elephants, because this season generally proves the most fatal to them. Orders have been given to the Dessave for the repair of the elephant kraals between Ponneryn, Polvrencatte, and Ilipecarwe. As soon as the animals make their appearance in that neighbourhood, it will be necessary to put the work in the hands of the Dessave of the Wanny. About a hundred men are usually sent from this Province for that work, namely, 50 men from Cannecase, 35 from Agamladys, and 20 slaves of the Company from the Tomble Cove. The latter also look after the feeding of the newly-captured animals. The Dessave must endeavour to make this number suffice for the work, but should he want more help, he must get people from Ponneryn and the other villages. The capture of elephants is the special duty of the Lieutenant-Dessave of the Wanny, who is most experienced

* *Gordyn, i.e.*, a curtain of the fortification.

in this department; but everything is to be done under the authority of the Dessave. All people sent from this Province must be relieved every fifteen days.

You are aware of the manner in which the elephants are received and sold by the Company. When an elephant is brought to the stalls, he is kept there for twelve days, at the risk of the person who brings him. If the animal dies within this period he has to bear the loss, but if he survives the twelve days and remains in good condition, it is accepted by the Company and brought to the Castle, where its height is measured and the mark of the Company branded on its back. After the animals are sold they are marked again. No animals except those bearing these two marks are to be shipped at Cayts. Special attention must be paid to this, and also care taken that none are despatched without notice from here that the animals have been paid for, or that sufficient security has been given for their value. The sale is held in presence of all the members of the Council resident here. The sales book will show Your Honour the prices for which the animals were sold, and according to this the future prices must be regulated, until higher offers and a larger number of purchasers enable the prices to be raised. The purchasers of elephants here are principally the Oramis, Loury, Pirmal, and Tinmersja *neyks*, who paid this year about Rds. 10,000 for these animals. It is desirable that more purchasers should appear. Your Honour might make some endeavour to attract them, because, as the gainers are the inhabitants of our own country and the capital remains here, it cannot but be a source of advantage to the Honourable Company. With this view, as Your Honour knows, I always made a concession to the purchasers when they bought eight or ten animals at one time, by reducing the price Rds. 50, 80, or even 100 on the whole lot. By this the loss of the Company was only about Rds. 6 on each animal, but these people seemed wonderfully pleased at their gain. I did not, however, reduce the price in cases where all the animals were without defect. These are matters to be now left to Your Honour's discretion. When purchasers come for Manaar elephants, or those newly captured and not yet delivered over to the Company, the price will have to be reduced; because, as Your Honour is aware, the Manaar animals are considered to be the least valuable, though not always so. This matter, as before, is left in Your Honour's hands.

The painters and dyers are getting on better now than they used to. The former are paying off yearly a considerable amount of their old dues, although hardly feeling this themselves; because formerly this money used to go to private persons. This happened in the following manner: when a

large quantity of rice was imported here, private individuals purchased it at a low price and sold it to these people at 6 fanams or Rds. ½ the parra. This profit is now credited to them in their accounts. It would be well if Your Honour would continue this practice, so that these people may pay off their debts, and the Honourable Company receive her dues. Otherwise I do not see a way of settling these accounts. The dyers also have run deeply into debt with private persons, for which they have had to mortgage their properties. These matters have been regulated by Your Honour and myself. They are beginning to be more prosperous now, which is mostly due to Your Honour's good care. I have no doubt you will continue looking after their interests in this way, which will not only be profitable to them but also to the Honourable Company; because when their circumstances improve the wages could be a little reduced. I have appointed as overseers under Your Honour's supervision the Onderkoopman Mr. Mierop and the Brahmin Mirsya, who, I think, may continue to perform those duties for the present. It will be necessary to at once have the raw cotton goods that have come from the coast dyed, because the present stock does not meet the demand.

The dye-roots for this work are mostly obtained from Manaar, as they give a very good and bright colour. The roots from The Islands will also answer the purpose, but those from Cannedive are the best of all, excelling all the others in quality. I think, therefore, that as long as we are able to obtain them abundantly from Manaar, Calpentyn, and the Wanny, the roots that grow in this Province ought not to be mixed with others, as this will render the goods less valuable. They might however be sold, which is better than leaving them in the stores to spoil. I shall hand to Your Honour a memorandum in which will be classified the dye-roots of the different villages according to kinds, so that similar kinds may be put together.

A Thombo is also kept of the weavers, of whom there are a great number, because most of the parias also know how to weave and are so classed. Last year an order was issued that they should all live in either of two places in this Province pointed out to them, because they used to wander all over the country to escape State labour. This order was issued with a view also to ascertain what cloth was made by them, and that in the course of time they may work for the Company. I have had communication with His Excellency the Governor on this subject, and he has given orders to continue the work on these lines. It is now for Your Honour to carry it on. The Brahmin Timmersa is acquainted with this work and is aware of our policy. The two places which I consider most suitable

for the weavers, both in their own interest and that of ourselves, are the villages Nalloer and Sunagam, but Your Honour must see that in every parish two or three men remain, to beat the *tamblinhos* for the church. Some of the low caste people may be so employed, and the rest drawn away for the work referred to above.

The churches and schools must be regularly visited and inspected. A correct list is to be made this year of all Christians, old and young, male and female. If the Rev. Mr. Fenny has to do this himself, it will be necessary that for the time being the Rev. Mr. de Mey should conduct the services in the Castle, because the Rev. Mr. Agotha has to go to Colombo.

Your Honour is aware what new churches have been built and what old ones restored. The other churches, which are beginning one after the other to fall into decay, must also be repaired. I leave this as a charge to Your Honour. In Captain Clebout we have sustained a great loss as regards this work and the work at the fortifications, &c., as he always supervised this department with care.

The fines are to be strictly exacted, because out of these all expenses are to be paid, and although the Rev. Mr. de Mey does not seem to be willing to do this, the other brethren have agreed to see that the names of the defaulters are forwarded to the School Board.

The regulations made in regard to the food commissariat of the clergymen, when they visit the churches, Your Honour will find set out in a memo. on the subject and also in the letter of August 5 last to His Excellency the Governor. Here also is stated the arrangement for the transport of the clergymen. The answer of His Excellency to this letter will also be found, and Your Honour will have to adhere to the instructions. The houses for the clergy are all completed, as also that for the Lieutenant-Dessave, so that they have no longer reason for complaint about their having to live in the country, which they do not seem to like very much. Those of the clergy who visit the churches at outstations and stay there for their meals should furnish a statement of what they consume, and hand this to the mayorals, who, having defrayed the charges out of the funds, received for this purpose out of fines from the Onderkoopman Mierop, will pass the memorandum on to him. He will go over the accounts and replenish the funds. I introduced this practice because the mayorals were formerly in the habit of acting very unjustly. When any person arrived who had to be supplied with victuals, they obtained it by exacting the articles from the poorest people, who constantly complained about this. This is now prevented to a

large extent, as also many other practices of which Your Honour is aware and of which mention is made in the different letters.

The receipts and expenditure by Mr. Mierop he will himself account for.

I will briefly set forth here what I have spent myself :—

Rds.	
212	for church purposes, paid to the Hon. Mr. Clebout out of the fines.
300	for church expenses, submitted by Mr. Mierop.
1,300	out of the fines put out on interest, together with Rds. 1,000, which were entrusted to Mr. Mierop, thus leaving now outstanding Rds. 2,900, which will in a great way go towards meeting the expenses.
1,787.7½	out of the fines given towards the Orphanage, besides Rds. 2,000 paid to that institution out of the sick fund.
666	spent by me for various necessities.
4,265.7½	This is the expenditure, only a small balance remaining, which will be handed to Mr. Mierop.

I have thought it necessary to state this here, so that Your Honour might know who is the responsible person in regard to this matter. Particulars relating to the churches may be examined at Mr. Mierop's.

Except the trade in elephants, commerce here is of little importance. I will therefore not enlarge on this subject. Your Honour would do well to continue in the existing lines.

On the smuggling of cotton goods, pepper, areca-nut, and other contraband goods special watch must be kept, as it makes a great difference in our revenues.

In order to prevent this as far as possible no one and nothing is to be allowed to cross beyond the Passes without a license. The same rule has been enforced at Colomboture and Catchayture. At the end of the month all the licenses issued must be sent here, with a specification showing the people and goods that have come in from outside, so that we may be correctly informed as to who and what have so crossed over. In both places a Corporal is stationed ; the one in Catchayture having also the supervision of the delivery of the palmyra wood and laths. At the Passes the Ensign van Willemsz van Hoften is stationed. He is in charge of the stone redoubts, and has

the command of the garrison. With him is an Adigar from Patchalapally, a man of sound judgment, who has been of good service to us and knows very well how to get on with the people. A row of palmyra trees has been planted close together to form a live fence, cutting off the Passes to the Wanny. When the trees have grown to about 5 or 6 feet, and a certain kind of thorn called *clitjes* grown between the trees, it will be impossible even for a dog, much less a man, to pass through. We will then have this people in our power, who now often escape to the Wanny by night. Great care must be taken of these newly-planted trees, because up to one year the pigs dig up the roots and eat them. The people also bury the roots away, dig them up after a year's time, and pound them into flour. This and the fruits of the trees form their principal food. There are people who do not taste rice for a whole year. Last year the pigs did great damage to the plantations, but since then a strong fence has been made around the trees, so that at present they cannot do much harm. These fences must be kept in repair, because sometimes an elephant breaks through in some of the places.

The licenses referred to are merely small slips of ola of little value, called *cajoppes*. Should any license or passport of importance be presented in this shape, it must not be accepted, because all important matters are written on double olas, with the midrib of the leaf preserved. I have thought it necessary to mention this, as a great many of these cajoppes are to be signed daily, and the kanakkapillais could easily take the opportunity to commit fraud, although I must admit that I have never yet discovered an instance of it.

Every year near sowing time a muster roll is made of all the sowers who work on the lands which Don Philip Nellamapama holds under the Government, and are usually called the villages of Carreiche. This roll is signed by the person in authority and handed over at the Passes. The labourers whose names are on this roll can then pass without a passport. These people, although they sow outside and pay their tithes to Don Philip (for which he yearly provides two young elephants to the Honourable Company), have nevertheless to pay their poll tax and to perform their monthly State labour.

Every one who enters from outside has to furnish a twist of match cord, four fathoms long, and the same for every buffalo or cow they have with them.

All ferries and passes are farmed out every year on the last day of December. Your Honour will find the conditions in the books kept for the purpose. As Your Honour has been present at the sale of the farms, I need not enlarge upon the subject. The old and crippled people who are exempted from

State labour still have each, according to their power, to pay a little, as for instance in the district Welligamma, Waddemoraatche, and The Islands. Every man has to give yearly a certain quantity of *tagarawira* seed, but the people of the districts Timmoraatche and Patchalapally give mats and baskets. The list thereof is kept by the Lieutenant-Dessave and the Adigars. Then there are another 236 men free from State labour, namely:—

	123	men in Welligamma
	32	men in Waddemoraatche
	22	men in The Islands
	59	men in Timmoraatche
Total ..	236	men.

These people have to burn every month five baskets of charcoal for the Smith's Department, so that 1,180 parras of charcoal in all are to be delivered monthly.

Besides the *tagarawira* seed that the old people have to furnish, some church parishes have also to yield a certain quantity, which the school boys have to collect and the teachers to take care of. The list of this also is with the Lieutenant-Dessave.

For the service of felling the timber, which should be under the supervision of the Dessave, 293 of the Company's slaves have been ordered to be on duty, namely:—

145 from the Chivalawandancove, who, in groups of 20, 25, or 30 go out to cut the wood, and receive for their labour monthly a parra of rice and a little dry fish, and sometimes also a little tobacco, which is paid for out of the fines.

148 slaves who, when the timber is felled, have to fetch it with the help of the Carrias* referred to below:—

	73	from Mayvalacove
	38	from Attenkittencove
	37	Nallewas and Pallas
Total ..	148	who formerly belonged to the Portuguese but have now been made to work for the Company. These do not get any rice, but have to provide their own food.

738 Carrias come every year for 15 days to the felling of timber, to transport it. These also provide their own food. The number who have to come at one time must be arranged

* These were fishermen, who were also employed in the navigation of the small craft.

according to the work that is to be done. They come from the following places : –

	173	from Carria Nagricoyl
	349	from Waddemoraatche, except those from old Manaar and Waliwiture, who serve at the Castle
	276	from Patchalapally
Total ..	738	Carrias for the transport of wood.

The Dessave has to complete the work with this number of men, because we never had any more. The timber must be felled in the dry season, during the new moon, and be transported during the rainy season.

In order to promote the enterprise of horse breeding there are wanted three or four more stallions. Two have been bought in Tutucorin, and when they arrive, must be kept in the island of Delft. All horses which are now in Manaar must be brought there also. The young horses are to be sold for Rds. 20 or 25 each, to adjust the accounts, because we have to pay for all the horses from Colombo, Manaar, and Tutucorin, and there will be a great deficit. There are in The Islands, "The Two Brothers," a few good mares and stallions which would no doubt yield some fine animals. The soldier who is stationed there to take care of them must from time to time be visited by the ships that pass there and asked if anything is wanted.

The Thombo of the land survey in Waddemoraatche has, as mentioned before, been completed; but I think there will be a good many accounts to be settled yet. The Thombo of the tobacco plantations will have to be changed into one of *warrego* lands, because of the complaints frequently made by the people. But when they begin the cultivation of tobacco they will have to pay the fixed amount. The plantations must therefore be inspected every year, and the owners who have no license should be made to pay a fine. The collectors of the poll tax and land rent must be compelled to collect the dues for this year before the closing of the books. Don Jan Chiandere Chegremane Mudliyar Kanakkapillai compels his brother to pay first of all and the largest share. He is therefore hated by his own people. They are perfidious characters, and it will be necessary to protect those who have served us faithfully for many years from their rapacity, and keep them in our service as long as they remain trustworthy.

Great care must be exercised in the administration of justice, because the people are a troublesome and dishonest race. They do not scruple to take a false oath to gain any profit, and the rich are able to get as many of the common people as they

desire to give evidence in their behalf for their profit. This is a sad state of things, because often injustice is done in this way.

Twice a year all the mayorals and the chiefs of each caste have to appear here before the authorities to suggest in general what is necessary. Each has to bring some present. The mayorals bring fowls, and each caste offers some of the products of its trade. The people from the Wanny are allowed to come only once a year personally, but they must send their presents of fowls and butter twice a year, as also the people from the villages Ponneryn, Tolorenecatta, and Ilipecarwe. It is important to continue this custom, because it is a sign of subjection. It was introduced in the time of the heathen kings, was kept up by the Portuguese, and is now still observed by the Honourable Company.

Orders have been given that no slave is to have more than one master, but there has been no time to enforce this order as yet, although it is urgently necessary. It is very hard on these poor people to have several masters and to be at the mercy of each one of them. It would be well if Your Honour would see to this matter as soon as possible.

When the new Thombo was compiled the mayorals entered the names of many slaves, who they said had formerly belonged to the Portuguese Government, and whom they claimed for the Honourable Company. Their present owners object strongly to this, and are prepared to prove their right. Investigation should be made, and those who have made fictitious claims must be punished, while those who are able to prove their lawful ownership must have their rights recognized. There is no doubt that in a great many cases the property in lands and slaves which once belonged to the Portuguese Government has been misappropriated, although it is not an easy matter to arrive at the truth of these cases, especially as the people stand so much by each other.

Every third year the Thombo of the poll tax is to be renewed, and all the deceased, old, and crippled written off the list. On the other hand the names of all young men who have passed the schools during the interval must be entered. The short Thombo is to be altered in the same way. Of the coolies who have to attend daily for the performance of State labour a separate muster-roll and Thombo are kept, and, as mentioned before, the defaulters are fined.

The mayorals suffer a loss by the deaths within this period of three years. On the other hand they enjoy the profits out of the poll tax and State labour from those who have left the schools for more than half a year during the same period. Care must be taken when the new Thombo is compiled that no more deaths are stated than have actually occurred, and also

that the names of youths who have reached the required age are not left out. The statements of the mayorals can be verified by comparison with the registers of the church parishes, taking care that the overseers do not know anything about it. They might otherwise alter the registers to suit the mayorals. This should be looked after by the Lieutenant-Dessave and one other trustworthy person.

At present the Carrias are still required to be on duty for one and a half day every month. Although the Company owns more vessels than could be manned in this way, I think it would be only fair to put them on one day's duty like all the other people, and I have promised them that this will be done at the end of the year. I have already referred to some slaves who belong to the Honourable Company. Besides these there are others, known by the name of *Cottewasel.** Twenty-two of these have to labour every day in the gunpowder factory, and another twenty-two have to cut grass for the Company's horses. In the gunpowder factory are also working eight *Chivias*† and two *Chianders Wellepeer.* The slaves in the gunpowder factory are relieved every week, the grass cutters every four days. The *Chianders Wellepeer* usually carry the luggage of the Commandeur when he is on circuit. They are not expected to do this for any other but the person in chief authority.

Then there are 348 of the Company's slaves who are diggers of dye-roots. These pay four *fanams* as poll tax.

In the short Thombo Your Honour will find the number of women and children. The Company claims the first child of the slaves, if a boy, and if this child should die after being taken away from the parents, no claim is made for any of the other children ; but if the child dies while in the charge of its parents, the Company asserts its right to the next male child. No girls are claimed at all.

A careful watch should be kept on these children, because many of them are often concealed. The Aratchy don Francisco is supposed to look after this matter, but I doubt very much whether he is careful enough that none of the children are hidden. It would be well if Your Honour would make investigation into the subject.

None of the slaves mentioned receive any support from the Company. They live by themselves like other people, but have to be always ready for service. Only if they be kept on duty so long as to prevent their earning a living, the Company provides them with rice.

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* *Koddai-vasal,* slaves of the Fort Gate.
† Originally palanquin carriers.

Your Honour will find from the monthly muster-rolls where the Lascoreens and the Toepasses* are stationed, and how many of them there are. I will ask His Excellency the Governor whether those from Ilipecarwe could not be discharged, and let you know his decision. As soon as the Special Commissioners have completed their work in the district of Patchalapally, the Toepasses who are with them should be discharged, to save expense to the Company.

You might retain the two Aratchies and forty Lascoreens who have been with me, as they are wanted for service. It is likely that when going on circuit Your Honour would find only six collected together, because they are usually employed in various duties.

The Rds. 12,000 worth of copper coin which have been ordered to be sent to Colombo should be sent by the first opportunity.

No beggars and vagabonds must be admitted into this district, because they do nothing but harm to Christianity. No passports should be given them to cross the Passes to the Wanny, and care should be taken that they do not enter under false pretences. They must all be sent back to the opposite coast. Strict orders regarding this matter should be given in Manaar, because whole crowds of people of this description are in the habit of coming over from Rammancoyl. I discussed the matter with Mr. Pollio, who promised to keep a watch over these people.

The idolators have until now had their own way, because the *Fiscaal* complains of being too busy, with the case of the Rev. Mr. Agotha and others. I hope Your Honour will now take this matter in hand.

It is important that Your Honour should be as economical as possible in the management of the Company's affairs and try to increase the profits, especially those on the sale of elephants. The poll tax and land rent yield every year an aggregate of Rds. 40,479.10.8, or 121,439.12 guilders. This is about 80,000 guilders more than formerly, a profit which I, with God's help, have been able to bring to the Honourable Company, and which I hope it will enjoy for many years to come.

The Wannias have been reduced to peace again, and I hope they will remain quiet in the future. His Excellency the Governor stated in his last letter that the general management of this district is in the hands of the Dessave. As there has

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* The *Toepasses* were a somewhat degraded class of half castes of Portuguese and Sinhalese descent, originally born out of wedlock. The word indicates *Mixed*, or of *Two Sources*, and is said to be allied to *dubash* (lit. "a man of two languages"). The Interpreter Mudaliyars of our Courts are called in Sinhalese "Tuppahe Mudianse."

already been so much written on the subject, and as His Excellency has postponed the consideration of the principal requests of these people until my arrival, I will not say much with regard to these matters now. I am sure Mr. Schuilenburch will do all he can to keep them in order, and thus prove his capacity to rule them justly and peaceably. I will only briefly state here their yearly duties. They have to furnish yearly 42½* *alias* (elephants without tusks) for the Honourable Company, namely :—

	Elephants.
Nellemapane and Cousieynaar for the districts of Pannergamo	11½
The same for Pakanblancoelan ..	4½
Nellemapane for Parrendanwelly ..	2
Cottepille for Meelpattoe and Moeliawale ..	8½
Chiandenaar for Carricattemoela ..	7
Tircaila for Carnavilpattoe and Poedoecaeripo	7
Chiammatte for Tinnemarewadde ..	2
Total ..	42½

There are still due for former years more than 300 elephants. An elephant with tusks is equal in value to two *alias*. What the bringers receive when the animals are put in the stables Your Honour will find stated in the cash book. The Dessave will have to continually remind the people to pay off this debt.

The Wannias have for some years been cutting 100 beams of the heaviest kind, from 18 to 25 cubits long. They must continue to do this, and I have also ordered Nellemapane and Cousieynaar to cut yearly 25 beams on the Ilipecarwe side.

	Beams.
Nellemapane and Cousieynaar ..	25
Chiandenaar for the district of Carricattemoela	40
Cottepille for Meelpattoe	30
The same for Moeliawale	15
Don Philip Nellemapane for Parrendanwelly ..	15
Total ..	125

Tircaile has to furnish for Poedoecaeripo 20 heavy large beams, out of which could be sawn 150 pikes. This village has also to provide wood for musket-drawers (*lit.*), large enough for two to be made out of one piece, for Carnavilpattoe.

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* The apparent absurdity of the fractional figures used here is explained by the fact that a money payment was made in lieu of the actual delivery of elephants.

We have ordered the Wannias and some other villages to furnish a number of deer skins, namely :—

	Deer Skins.
The Wannias of Panengama for the district of Palianblacoelan	40
The same for Carricattemoela ..	20
The same for Meelpattoe and Moeliawalo ..	20
Carnavilpattoe and Poedoecaeripo ..	20
Ilipecarwe	10
Polvrencatte	10
Ponneryn	18
Welligamme	15
Timmoraatche	10
Waddemoraatche	10
Patchalapally	10
The Islands together	20
Total ..	203

The Dessave should see that preparations for the capture of elephants in the kraals are made, as the time for it is drawing near. As mentioned before, the Lieutenant-Dessave Domingo Rodrigo is the most capable for this work. Proper authority should be given to him by the Dessave, because otherwise the interests of the Company might suffer.

No private services should be required from the Wannias, nor should they be made to cut wood, ebony, or anything else for private persons.

In the service of felling timber are usually employed, besides the thirty slaves referred to above, the Corporal Harman with one soldier and two Toepasses, as well as the Aratchy Joan de Croes with from eight to twenty Lascoreens, the number depending on the amount of work to be done. Your Honour is aware that the least expense suits the Company best, and should remind the Dessave thereof.

None of those who are employed in the felling of timber, except the 30 slaves mentioned before, receive rice.

On account of the smallness and the poverty of the villages Polvrencatte and Ilipecarwe, an arrangement has been made by which, if persons of quality, either from here or from Manaar, should stop there, for whom the inhabitants are bound to provide food, the Company should furnish the rice. But because I found out that the inhabitants had to provide for nearly every one who came there, about which they complained several times, I have given orders that only members of the Political Council and the clergy should be supplied. Moreover, if these gentlemen and their wives should travel on their own account or on pleasure, they will have to pay

their own expenses, including the wages of the bearers, &c. Your Honour will give a certificate to all persons for whom it is considered reasonable that the people and the Company should provide, without which no one is to be provided for, in terms of the order lately received from His Excellency the Governor.

Mr. Pollio has, according to my orders, compiled a new Thombo of the poll tax and land rent in Manaar. The taxes should be collected as soon as possible. Thanks to God a great deal of rain has been falling during the last few days. I hope Manaar has also benefited thereby. This moistening will improve the soil of the dry and barren island, and cause the dye-roots to shoot out afresh. Care should be taken that these profitable roots are dug up in proper time, because we want them very badly. No doubt Manaar will yield as much as it did last year, which will bring a considerable profit.

The elephant hunt in Mantoly, Nanatan, and Moesely, all belonging to Manaar, should be well carried out, with a view to having a good many animals in stock when the purchasers arrive. This and the dye-roots will not only pay all expenses, but most likely yield a considerable profit.

I do not think it necessary to discuss the subject of the pearl fishery, as its prospects are very bad. The yearly inspection should however be held, for which ordinary little boats are used. As Your Honour has been engaged in this work several times, and Mr. Pollio and Lieutenant Blommert are thoroughly acquainted with the way it is carried out, there is no need to expand on the subject. May God grant that this year the banks will be more prolific and the Honourable Company have a good fishery.

The Lieutenant Blommert, referred to above, must be placed at the head of the army in Manaar till further orders, because Captain Schlosser is leaving for Cochin.

All letters testify to the fact that the trade in areca-nut in Calpentyn is on the increase, as also the sale of cotton goods. Care must be taken that no spoiled areca-nuts are accepted, as several complaints have been sent in about this. I have no doubt Mr. Schaats will do all in his power in this matter, as he is a man who has done good service to the Company.

The fortifications have been completed, as also the dwelling-houses and stores. All that is wanted is to line the moat with a wall, which can be done by degrees when the labourers are not required for loading and unloading. I forgot to mention that a foundation is being laid at the eastern point of the Manaar fortifications, which is slowly getting on, and to which the attention of Mr. Pollio should be devoted.

As I am leaving now, and the provisional authority and command of these dominions have been given to Your Honour,

I cannot let the opportunity pass without wishing you all prosperity, and hoping that this temporary promotion may soon be made permanent. Your Honour will find a great deal of work to do, and it will be necessary to appoint another *Negotie-boekhouder* as Administrator, as also a President of the *Landraad*. The latter must be an able man, thoroughly acquainted with the laws, character, and customs of the people. This is an important matter, which I will suggest to His Excellency the Governor.

I will here conclude, recommending Your Honour to God's grace, and with cordial greetings,

I remain,
Your Honour's Sincere Friend,
(*Signed*) LAURENS PYL.

Jaffnapatnam, November 9, 1679.

Wax seal.

True copy:
(*Signed*) H. LEENDERTSZ,
Chief Clerk.

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Having stated briefly the most important matters relating to this Government, and as time does not permit of my expatiating at greater length upon the subject, I will now conclude with the prayer to God Almighty, that He will endow Your Honour with wisdom, courage, and His graceful blessing. May He grant Your Honour His protection, prosperity, and continued peace in this important Government. May He also grant to the Honourable Mr. Pyl, my temporary successor, a free, long-continued, and successful administration to the honour and benefit of himself and of the Honourable Company.

Your Honour's Sincere Friend.
(*Signed*) RYKLOF VAN GOENS, JR.

Colombo, December 3, 1679.

Wax seal.

True copy:
(*Signed*) HENDRIK SCHOOK,
Secretary.

The foregoing documents, having been compared by us, the undersigned clerks at the General Secretariat, have been found to agree with their original copies preserved here.

The Castale of Batavia,
August 5, 1680.

(*Signed*) ABRAM SESLEE,
HENDRIK DE BOSCH.

H. C. COTTLE, GOVERNMENT PRINTER, COLOMBO, CEYLON.